



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 312
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
December 17, 2003**

**Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Joseph N. Laplante
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1562 x 230**

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

**NORTHFIELD MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL FIREARM OFFENSE AFTER
ATTEMPTING TO TRADE ASSAULT RIFLE FOR "CRACK" COCAINE**

Re: United States v. Shaun HIBBARD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, N.H. State Police Colonel Gary Sloper, Tilton Police Chief Kent Chapman and Northfield Police Chief Scott Hilliard announce that Shaun HIBBARD, DOB 6/5/80, of Northfield, New Hampshire was convicted today of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

A State Trooper's affidavit submitted in support of the criminal complaint against HIBBARD, part of the Department of Justice's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" (PSN) initiative, alleges that HIBBARD attempted to trade an AK-47 semi-automatic assault rifle for an ounce of "crack" cocaine in Tilton, New Hampshire on July, 1, 2003.

HIBBARD entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe to an information charging him with possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. He faces a potential life sentence of imprisonment, and a five year mandatory minimum sentence.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of convicted felons is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we expand the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire."

The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the N.H. State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit with assistance from the Tilton and Northfield Police Departments. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.